

# Song of Miriam

ELAINE HAGENBERG

Preview copy - Not for performance

*Elaine Hagenberg*  
MUSIC

# Song of Miriam

by Rabbi Ruth Sohn

I, Miriam, stand at the sea  
and turn  
to face the desert  
stretching endless and  
still.  
My eyes are dazzled  
The sky brilliant blue  
Sunburnt sands unyielding white.  
My hands turn to dove wings.  
My arms  
reach  
for the sky  
and I want to sing  
the song rising inside me.  
My mouth open  
I stop.  
Where are the words?  
Where the melody?  
In a moment of panic  
My eyes go blind.  
Can I take a step  
Without knowing a  
Destination?  
Will I falter  
Will I fall  
Will the ground sink away from under me?

The song still unformed—  
How can I sing?

To take the first step—  
To sing a new song—  
Is to close one's eyes  
and dive  
into unknown waters,  
For a moment knowing nothing, risking all—  
But then to discover

The waters are friendly  
The ground is firm.  
And the song—  
the song rises again.  
Out of my mouth  
come words lifting the wind.  
And I hear  
for the first  
the song  
that has been in my heart  
silent  
unknown  
even to me.



## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Elaine Hagenberg's music "soars with eloquence and ingenuity" (*ACDA Choral Journal*). Her compositions are performed worldwide and have been featured at All-State festivals, national and regional American Choral Directors Association Conferences, the National Youth Choir at Carnegie Hall, the Melbourne International Choral Festival in Australia, and the International Children's Choir Festivals in Canterbury and London. With over forty commissioned works, she has composed new music for the American Choral Directors Association Women's Choir Consortium, colleges and universities, schools, community choirs, and churches.

In addition to composing, Elaine has been the guest artist and clinician for numerous conferences and festivals including the Heartland Youth Choir Meet the Composer Festival, the Alleluia Conference at Baylor University, the Voices Unite Festival, the Birmingham First Composer Festival, the Savannah Sacred Music Festival, and the In Canto Mediterraneo International Choral Festival in Milazzo, Italy.

Elaine's compositions are published by Beckenhurst Press, Oxford University Press, Hal Leonard, G. Schirmer, Hinshaw Music, and Elaine Hagenberg Music. For more information, please visit [elainehagenberg.com](http://elainehagenberg.com).



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# Song of Miriam

Treble Chorus, SSA and Piano

RABBI RUTH SOHN

ELAINE HAGENBERG

**Misterioso** (♩ = ca. 100)

*mp*

Soprano

I stand at the sea and turn to face the

*mp*

Alto

I stand at the sea and turn to face the

*mp*

Piano

*l.h. sta... loco*

4

*mf*

des - ert stretch - ing end - less and still. My

*mf*

des - ert stretch - ing end - less and still. My

4

8 *poco rit.*

*f* (slide)

eyes are daz-zled the sky bril-liant blue.

*f* (slide)

eyes are daz-zled the sky bril-liant blue.

8 *mf* *L.h.* *f* *poco rit.*

12 *a tempo* *p legato* *mp*

Sun - burnt sands un - yield - ing white. My hands turn to dove wings. My

*mp*

My

12 *a tempo* *p legato*

16 *mf* *poco a poco rit.*

arms reach for the sky, reach for the sky, I want to

*mf*

arms reach for the sky, the sky, I want to

16 *poco a poco rit.*

20 *a tempo mp*

sing. To sing the song ris - ing,

*mp*

I want to sing the song ris - ing,

20 *a tempo mp*

24 *mf* *poco a poco rit.* *a tempo*

song ris - ing, ah, I stop. Where are the

*mf* *f*

song ris - ing, ah, I stop. Where are the

24 *mf* *poco a poco rit.* *a tempo*

27 *freely mp* *p*

words? I stop. Where the mel - o - dy? In a

*mp* *p*

words? I stop. Where the mel - o - dy? In a

27 *p*

\*audibly inhale

**Allegro energico** (♩ = 104)*racing frantically*

31

mo-ment of pan-ic my eyes go blind, can I take a step with-out know-ing a des-ti -

mo-ment of pan-ic my eyes go blind, can I take a step with-out know-ing a des-ti -

31

**Allegro energico** (♩ = 104)

*p* racing frantically

na - tion? In a

na - tion? In a

33

na - tion? In a

na - tion? In a

35

*mp* racing frantically

mo-ment of pan-ic my eyes go blind, know-ing the des-ti -

mo-ment of pan-ic, a mo-ment of pan-ic I take a step with-out know-ing a des-ti -

35

*mp*

Moderato sostenuto (♩=100)

37

*mf*

na - tion? \_\_\_\_\_ Will I fal - ter? \_ Will I fall? Will the

*mf*

na - tion? \_\_\_\_\_ Will I fal - ter? \_ Will I fall? Will the

*mf*

Moderato sostenuto (♩=100)

40

*p*

ground sink a - way, \_ will I fal - ter? Will I fall? The

*mp*

ground sink a-way from un-der me, \_\_\_\_\_ Will the ground sink a-way from un-der

*mp*

40

43

song still un - formed, how can I sing? The

me oh \_\_\_\_\_ The

*mp*

43

*poco rit.**mf*

45 *legato* *mf*

song still un - formed, how can I sing? To

song still un - formed, how can I sing? To

45 *poco rit.*  
*mf*

*Andante con moto* (♩ = 92)

47

take the first step, to sing a new song, to close one's eyes and dive in-to un-known

take the first step, to sing a new song, to close one's eyes and dive in-to un-known

47 *Andante con moto* (♩ = 92)

49

*mp legato*

wa - ters. For a

wa - ters. For a

49 *mp legato*



51

mo - ment know - ing noth - ing risk - ing all. For a

mo - ment know - ing noth - ing risk - ing all. For a

53

*poco rit.*

mo - ment know - ing noth - ing risk - ing all. *mp* But

mo - ment know - ing noth - ing risk - ing all. *mp* But

55 **With renewed hope** (♩ = 88)

then to dis - co - ver the wa - ters are friend - ly. The

then to dis - co - ver the wa - ters are friend - ly. The

55 **With renewed hope** (♩ = 88)

57

ground is firm, the song ris - es a - gain.

ground is firm, the song ris - es a - gain.

59

Out of my mouth come words lift ing the wind, I

Out of my mouth come words lift - ing the wind. I

61 *mf*

hear for the first time, I hear for the first time, the

hear for the first time, I hear for the first time, the

*poco a poco rit.*

With great inner strength (♩ = 82)

11

64

heart,

*f*

song in my heart,

*f*

song in my heart,

64

2

*poco a poco rit.*

2

*f*

With great inner strength (♩ = 82)

66

song in my heart, the

song in my heart,

66

69

*mf* *mp*

song in my heart, my heart, the

*mf*

si - lent, un - known, e - ven to

69

Andante sostenuto (♩ = 78)

72 *poco rit.* **p**

song in my heart, my

me, my

72 *poco rit.* **mp** (melody)

75 *poco a poco rit.* **p**

heart. The song

heart. The song

75 *poco a poco rit.* **p**

78 **pp**

in my heart.

in my heart.

78 **pp**

